

Dear Parent/Guardian:

February 13, 2006

You will have heard through the media that CUPE Ontario is threatening a province-wide job action in response to the provincial government's proposed Bill 206, which is an act to revise the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS). This is a provincial issue and has nothing to do with either the school boards or the city, all of whom will be affected if CUPE members strike.

The result of the action initiated by the Ontario office of CUPE, means the potential exists for the withdrawal of services by the 12,000 CUPE Local 4400 members within the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). CUPE members include school office staff, lunchroom supervisors, Adult Education instructors, caretakers, educational assistants, central administration staff, as well as Information Technology staff and maintenance workers.

Potential walkouts could occur as early as tomorrow, Tuesday, February 14. The timing of withdrawal of services depends on when the Ontario government introduces third reading of Bill 206, at which time Syd Ryan, CUPE Ontario Division President, says he will pull workers off the job.

The TDSB's first priority is the safety and security of all students. The Board will monitor schools on a daily basis and will reassess the situation daily, on an individual school basis.

Staff has developed a contingency plan in anticipation of the potential job action. We will announce specific action plans that respond to specific needs within the system as situations arise. Please note the following:

- All previously scheduled excursions (including overnight trips and out-of-country excursions) and co-curricular activities will proceed, provided appropriate supervision levels are in place to ensure student safety.
- If circumstances change, the Board may be required to consider its options. The decision to close a school will be made on a school-by-school basis.
- Every effort will be made to continue Safe Arrival Programs in all of our elementary schools.
- All aquatic programs will be cancelled.
- Cafeterias will remain open, and breakfast and lunch programs will operate as usual.
- School-based childcare facilities will continue to operate but caretaking services may not be available. Operators have been advised to prepare contingency plans in the event that they are not able to operate and they have been asked to inform parents of alternative plans.
- Permits for the use of school facilities by community groups will be cancelled.
- Residential outdoor education centres will be closed but single-day programs will continue to operate to the extent possible.

The Board will continue to monitor this situation closely, and will provide you with regular updates as they become available. We encourage you to visit the TDSB web site at: www.tdsb.on.ca or call our hotline at 416-397-2400 for updates. Please listen to your local television and radio stations for regular updates. Thank you for your understanding and patience.



Sincerely,
Sheila Ward
Chair



Gerry Connelly
Director